

REMARKS

Claims 5-6 have been canceled without prejudice, and claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-4 and 17 are pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

First, claims 5-6 have been canceled without prejudice, so the rejections pertaining to these claims are rendered moot.

Claims 1-2 and 17

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,832,244 to Jolley et al. ("Jolley"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting claim 1 under Jolley, the Examiner asserts that the bus detection circuit 22 in FIG. 1 or 46 in FIG. 2 of Jolley has a plurality of bus snoop circuits. See top of page 8 of the Final Office Action. In response, claim 1 has been amended to recite, among other limitations, that the switch, the first bus snoop circuit and the second bus snoop circuit are separated from each other, as best shown in FIG. 1 of the present invention. In contrast, the various circuits in the bus detection circuits 22 or 46 in Jolley are not separated from each other. Thus, claim 1 (and claims 2 and 17 depending therefrom) are submitted to be allowable over Jolley.

Claims 3-4

Independent claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jolley in view of USP 5,671,355 to Collins ("Collins"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant had previously amended claim 3 to recite that the micro-controller 134 generates a bus select signal selected by the micro-controller without receiving bus data from the bus. To maintain this rejection, the Examiner has cited column 8, lines 19-31 of Collins as disclosing a micro-controller that generates a bus select signal selected by the micro-controller without receiving bus data from the bus. However, column 8, lines 19-31 actually discusses how the device in FIG. 1 of Collins would work if the network and bus type determination means 25 (which includes the "micro-controller" 46) were omitted. See column 8, lines 19-20 ("Such a device without the network and bus type determination means 25 ..."). Thus, the Examiner is relying on a portion of the disclosure in Collins which has no micro-controller. For these reasons, claim 3 (and claim 4 depending therefrom) are submitted to be allowable over Jolley and Collins.

* * *

Thus, all pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The

Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: May 19, 2004 By: 
Raymond Sun